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(b) if so, the stage at which the matter now stands?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Revised scales of pay

150 Q.—SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether the minimum benefit of Rs. 5 in total emoluments under the revised scales of pay is applicable to watchmen, sweepers and gardeners in aided secondary schools?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The matter is under consideration.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Are the peons in permanent employment in the aided schools eligible for this increase?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Yes, Sir.

Local board secondary schools

* 151 Q.—SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state the total number of local board secondary schools in the State with twenty-five sections and more?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : No, Sir.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Sir, the question is about the number of schools. May I take it that there are no schools?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I am sorry, Sir, the number is 50.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Are the Government aware of the fact, Sir, that in spite of the large strength in the schools, the headmasters of these institutions are not paid on a par with the headmasters of aided institutions?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : It is not a question of payment of headmasters on a par with some other institution. The question of revision of scales of pay for the various categories of Government servants including headmasters was gone into by the Pay Commission and the pay scales have been fixed according to the recommendations of the Commission.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Are the Government aware that there is still the disparity and do the Government justify that disparity?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : It cannot be taken as a disparity. Government servants have certain other privileges. Mere scale of pay cannot be compared with what is prevailing in other spheres.

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SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Do the Government mean to say that the District Board school headmasters are eligible for this pay ?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I should think so; Sir. But I would like to have notice.

Tamil Teachers' Association.

* 152 *Q.*—*DR.* A. CHIDAMBARANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any representation has been received from the Madras State Tamil Teachers' Association to place all the First Grade Tamil Pandits in the scale of L.T. Assistants; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) The matter is under consideration.

DR. A. CHIDAMBARANATHAN : May I know, Sir, whether representations have been received from teachers that their services as first grade pandits, though in the lower scales of pay in the same category, have not been taken into consideration in fitting into the L.T. scales of pay?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Under the order now in force, Tamil pandits employed in the secondary schools for handling forms IV to VI should possess the following three qualifications, namely, General educational qualification S.S.L.C. completed; qualification in Tamil, A degree or a oriental title training qualification; pandits' training or L.T. training. These are the qualifications that are insisted upon according to the Government orders. Therefore, I have stated that the question of treating the pandits referred to in the main question as equivalent to L.Ts' is under consideration.

DR. A. CHIDAMBARANATHAN : There are two grades of scales of pay for the First Grade Tamil Pandits, for instance, one scale starting at Rs. 60 or Rs. 65 and another starting at Rs. 75 or Rs. 85. Both the scales of pay are attached to what is known as first grade. Will the Government be pleased to consider whether they should not be ranked on a par with the L.T. Assistants according to the Government orders and, if there is any difficulty in the interpretation of the order, will the Government be pleased to rectify it by issuing a clarification to the Government order concerned?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The Government order is quite clear. It insists on certain minimum qualifications for these pandits and teachers. Unless the Government take up the question of revising the orders, the teachers should possess the qualifications insisted upon in the order.